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Filed : June 1, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A fastener connector system in combination with a color coding key, comprising:

a finished fastener with a shaft having a first end and second end;

an exposed portion attached to the first end of the shaft; and

an identifying color deliberately applied to at least some surface of the exposed portion of the finished fastener, the identifying color pre-selected to correspond to at least two specified physical properties of the shaft of the finished fastener, the identifying color on the exposed portion being capable of being recognized by a person of normal vision from a distance of at least 10 feet when the shaft has been inserted into a surface;

a finished connector which is required by regulation has been pre-selected to be used with the fasteners having the two specified shaft physical properties wherein the finished connector is selected from the group consisting of beam hangers, embedded holdowns, embedded truss anchors, floor ties, framing anchors, header hanger, holdowns, hurricane ties, joist hangers, metal straps, mudsill anchors, plate ties, post base, post caps, seismic ties, straps, stud plate ties, twist straps and wall braces;

a colored indicia on the finished connector deliberately applied to at least some surface of the finished connector, the colored indicia matching the identifying color on the exposed portion of the finished fastener; and

a color coding key having at least the identifying color visually present on the color coding key, and means present on the color coding key for corresponding the identifying color to at least two different physical properties of the finished fastener, said physical properties selected from the group consisting of fastener length, shaft length, leg length, gauge, width, crown width, thickness, weight, threads, threads per unit of measure, tip configuration, anchoring capabilities, composition, materials, substance treatment, and variations in surface, the physical property

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properties being defined on the color coding key specific to the identifying color on the finished fastener~~the colored indicia on the connector having been pre-selected to indicate the fasteners which regulation permits may be used with the connector;~~

~~— a fastener having the specified properties; and~~
~~— a colored indicia on the fastener, the colored indicia on the fastener having been pre-selected to define the specified physical properties.~~

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The fastener, ~~and~~connector and color coding key system of Claim 14, wherein a symbol is applied to the finished fastener or finished connector to connote a ~~separate different~~ physical property.

18. (Currently Amended) The fastener, ~~and~~connector and color coding key system of Claim 17, wherein the symbol comprises a letter.

19. (Currently Amended) The fastener, ~~and~~connector and color coding key system of Claim 17, wherein the symbol comprises a number.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

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35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) The fastener, ~~and~~connector and color coding key system of Claim ~~17~~14, where from a distance of at least 15 feet, the identifying color of the exposed colored portion of the fastener is discernible by a person of ordinary vision.

47. (Currently Amended) The fastener, ~~and~~connector and color coding key system of Claim ~~17~~14, where from a distance of at least 18 feet, the identifying color of the exposed colored portion of the fastener is discernible by a person of ordinary vision.

48. (Currently Amended) The fastener, ~~and~~connector and color coding key system of Claim ~~17~~14, where from a distance of more than 20 feet, the identifying color of the exposed colored portion of the fastener is discernible by a person of ordinary vision.

49. (New) The fastener, connector and color coding key system of Claim 14, wherein the finished fastener is a nail.

50. (New) The fastener, connector and color coding key system of Claim 14, wherein the finished fastener is a bolt.

51. (New) The fastener, connector and color coding key system of Claim 14, wherein the finished fastener is a staple.

52. (New) The fastener, connector and color coding key system of Claim 14, wherein the finished fastener is a rivet.

53. (New) The fastener, connector and color coding key system of Claim 14 wherein the finished fastener is a screw.

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54. (New) The fastener, connector and color coding key system of Claim 14, wherein the finished fastener is a wedge anchor bolt.